



The search for Somali leadership and the potentials of Somaliland

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Aalborg University Copenhagen Global Refugee Studies

Invitation

You are hereby invited to participate in the international conference on Somaliland – the situation, key issues and the way forward. The conference will include a range of interventions from key experts with a Somaliland background and key speakers from Denmark. In addition there will be a keynote presentation of the new Danish policy towards Somaliland and the perspectives for cooperation and development aid.

The conference will also look at the regional and international perspectives for peace and security.

The International Conference will be held on 1. December 2010 between 9.30 and 16.30 pm.

At the conference a small lunch, tea and coffee will be served for those, who have registered at the following mail address: nannamaj@samf.aau.dk Registration for the conference should not be later than the 28th November 2010

There is no fee for participants.

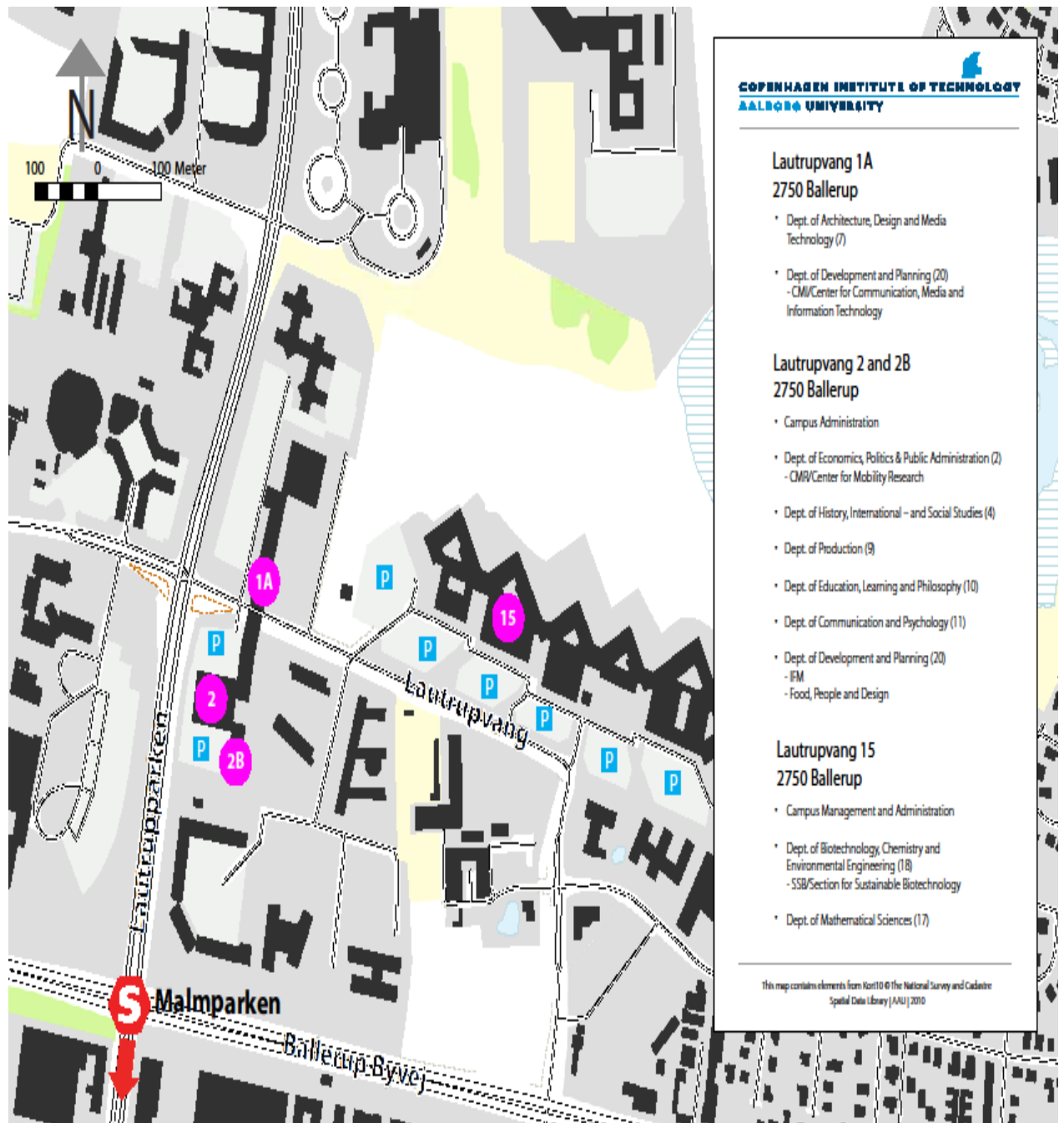
Questions can be addressed to the following persons from the organisation committee:

Mahad Farah Aden, princeofburco@hotmail.com tel: 26122461

Søren Villadsen, soerenvilladsen@gmail.com tel: 29663140

- Or can be directed at the conference secretary, Ms Nanna Maj Tommerup: nannamaj@samf.aau.dk
- Participation requires that you contact the secretary on email or phone. Special food requirements should also be mentioned to the secretary. Any meat served will have been treated according to halal principles.

Venue:
Room 005
Aalborg University Copenhagen
Lautrupvang 2B, 2750 Ballerup



Programme for the workshop on Somaliland – the situation, key issues and the way forward

A workshop organised by Aalborg University on 1. December 2010

Why this workshop?

Despite its 20 years of independence Somaliland has been forgotten and unrecognised. Somaliland was a separate British Protectorate with clearly delineated boundaries in June 1960. Of the eighteen African countries that became independent in 1960, Somaliland was the fourth. It was welcomed by thirty five nations including five United Nations permanent members. Only after Somalia was granted independence in July 1960 did Somaliland initiate a Union with Somalia to form a greater Somali Republic. That union failed and has cost Somaliland profoundly.

The Republic of Somaliland has experienced great obstacles since reclaiming its independence in 1991. Since then Somaliland has not been recognised internationally and even UN programmes have covered the greater Somalia and Somaliland and its government has not been in the UN vocabulary. Somaliland succeeded to combine the universal values of democracy with its rooted traditional way of dealing with crises and reconciliation. In this way, it developed all necessary institutions, laws including a Constitution, democratic elections and has with great success prevented attacks from destabilizing elements including terrorists from neighbouring countries.

There is now a new tendency in the international community towards having a dialogue between traditional donor countries and Somaliland. An interesting example is the high-level Danish visit to the newly elected President in Somaliland offering direct development cooperation and the following visit by the Danish Minister of Development to the President and Prime Minister.

The workshop will discuss these new developments, the successes and constraints and discuss the way forward seen from the Danish and international context.

Workshop programme:

9.30 Welcome: Associate professor Vibeke Andersson, Aalborg University

Introduction to the workshop and presentation of programme, Dr Søren Villadsen, workshop organiser



9.45 Dr. Mohamed-Rashid Sh. Hassan, PhD, Vice-president Candidate and now the president's special envoy for international relations and recognition. *Somaliland: History and context from British Protectorate to today's Republic of Somaliland.*

10.15 Jama Musse Jama, President, REDSEA-ONLINE Cultural Foundation, Italy: *Somaliland – the role of the new generation in the new Somaliland perspective.*

Discussion

11.00 Coffee break

11.10 Soren Villadsen, PhD; Somaliland – the institutional, legal and the governance reforms: The road to constitutional democracy

Discussion

11.40 Mr. Anders Knudsen, Aalborg University and Danish Refugee Council, *Refugees in and around Somaliland: Economic and political perspectives*

12.10 Mr. Thomas Thomsen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, New perspectives in the relations between Denmark and Somaliland

Questions and comments

12.50 Lunch break

13.30 Osman Farah, PhD, Aalborg University, The search for Somali leadership and the potentials of Somaliland

14.00 Ms Nauja Kleist, PhD, Senior Researcher, DIIS, How Somali refugees engage in Somaliland

14.30 Somaliland, health and welfare: The problems for social and health services. Dr, Ms Fatuma Ali, Director of the MHIS Foundation

Discussion

15.10 Tea and coffee

15.20 Round-table discussion introduced by Mr. Abdirahman Abdillahi Jibril, UK, Chairman of Somaliland Societies in Europe: *Relations between Europe and Somaliland and the role of Somaliland Diaspora: History and perspectives*

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What is the way forward? How to proceed with a wider approach?

Short comments by the above participants

What sort of information and communication is needed?

16.05 Summing-up and farewell coffee. Overall conclusions: Aalborg University